

causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" insert:

**--CROSS-RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation-in-part of pending application Serial No. 08/720,721, filed 3/14/96 and pending patent application Serial No. 09/525,148, filed 10/2/2000.--